

## Wildlife Restoration/Hunter Education Advisory Team



### Advisory 2020-007: Wildlife Viewing Program Funding

May 19, 2020

#### **Are wildlife viewing activities of WSFR-funded wildlife (including wildlife cameras) eligible for WSFR funding as an outreach activity?**

**Discussion:** Wildlife viewing is a form of wildlife recreation for appreciation of wildlife. The Team would not consider wildlife viewing to qualify as an activity to recruit hunters or recreational shooters unless the State recipient could clearly demonstrate that wildlife viewing is an essential component of the State's overall R3 strategy. Some Traditional Wildlife Restoration program-funded projects encourage citizen science where the public is involved with viewing and uploading wildlife videos. These citizen science activities are not considered "recreational" wildlife watching, but rather an activity for collecting information. Citizen science activities must be part of a grant approach in order to be eligible for Traditional Wildlife Restoration funding.

**Advisory:** Wildlife viewing activities and features may be eligible if included in a grant proposal as supporting objectives of the grant, such as:

- 1) Cameras for wildlife viewing using 16 U.S.C. 669c(b) (Traditional Wildlife Restoration) funding if the cameras are part of a research project to study and collect information for a Traditional Wildlife Restoration-funded species, or
- 2) Wildlife viewing activities identified as an integral part of a State's R3 strategy and that include specific wildlife viewing activities as a recruitment tool, using funds at 16 U.S.C. 669c(c) (R3) or using funds at 16 U.S.C. 669h-1 (Enhanced Hunter Education/R3).

Recreational wildlife viewing activities and related equipment and features are ineligible for WSFR reimbursement.

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (16 U.S.C. 669h-2) allows for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to receive funds for the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, that does not fund wildlife watching, but surveys those who do.